

# SC033502

**City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council**

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this children's home**

A local authority owns and operates this home. It provides care for up to four children aged between 12 and 18 years. The children may have social and emotional needs. There are two children living at the home full time and a further two are supported in a shared-care arrangement.

The manager has been registered at this home since September 2021.

**Inspection date:** 22 March 2022

## **This monitoring visit**

The interim inspection on 14 December 2021 found serious and widespread concerns in relation to the matching of children and the suitability of agency staff.

Ofsted issued two compliance notices under section 22 of the Care Standards Act 2000. These were in relation to regulation 14, the care planning standard and regulation 32, the fitness of workers.

A monitoring visit on 24 January 2022 found that managers had not made sufficient progress to meet all the actions set out in the compliance notices. As a result, the two compliance notices were reissued.

The purpose of this visit was to assess the progress made to meet the compliance notices.

Staff help the children to feel more at ease and the atmosphere in the home is much calmer than before. One staff member said, 'The good relationships we have with the children have helped them to make progress.'

Staff work with other agencies, such as the police and therapeutic services, to improve their understanding of the children's needs. They also use regular conversations as a way of helping children to recognise unsafe situations. Some children are supported to return to live with their families because of the reduction in concerns.

Staff talk with the children about their complaints and grumbles about their experiences of living at this home. This ensures that the children feel listened to and supported to raise concerns. Follow-up discussions ensure that the children are happy with and understand the outcome.

Concerns about staff conduct and practice are carried out in line with local safeguarding procedures to protect the children from harm. The investigation process, in consultation with the local authority designated officer, is thorough. Partnership discussions about the actions taken are well documented. However, managers have not notified the regulator when these concerns have been raised. This prevents Ofsted from having oversight and assurance that the children are protected from harm.

Recruitment practice linked to checks on agency workers has now improved. This provides stronger assurances that agency staff are safe, suitable and have the skills and experience required to work at the home. Children are involved in the recruitment process and are supported to interview the prospective candidates.

Impact risk assessments now provide the manager with a framework to evaluate the children's suitability to live together. This reduces the risk of placement disruption and concerns for children escalating because of incompatible needs.

The actions set out in the compliance notices have now been met.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/12/2021	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
20/04/2021	Full	Good
12/03/2020	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
21/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

## What does the children's home need to do to improve?

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—  there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. (Regulation 40 (4)(c)(d))	8 May 2022

### Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that as some children in residential care may be worried about being stigmatised or bullied by their peers for being 'different' because of where they live, that the external front fencing and games area are designed to take account of this. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.13)

### Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC033502

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

**Registered provider address:** City Hall, Centenary Square, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1HY

**Responsible individual:** Philip Segurola

**Registered manager:** Lisa Hargreaves

## Inspectors

Aaron Mcloughlin, Social Care Inspector  
Sadie Mulkeen, Social Care Inspector

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